

Message Text

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ACTION EB-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 06924

LIMDIS

USMTN

PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MTN, MX
SUBJECT: U.S.-MEXICAN TRADE SUBGROUP MEETING: GARRIDO'S
POSITION

REF: GENEVA 06186

1. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT HECTOR HERNANDEZ IS
LOOKING INTO ABEL GARRIDO'S RECENT WORK RATHER CAREFULLY.
REPORTEDLY HE HAS RECEIVED A LOT OF CRITICISM OF
GARRIDO'S FAILURE TO PROPERLY COORDINATE FROM OTHER
SECTORS OF THE GOM, PARTICULARLY PATRIMONY, TREASURY,
AND POSSIBLY AGRICULTURE. IN ADDITION, HERNANDEZ HIMSELF
IS SUPPOSED TO BE DISSATISFIED FOR SOME REASON.

2. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT GARRIDO MAY NOT RETAIN
HERNANDEZ'S FULL CONFIDENCE OCCURRED AT MONDAY MEETING
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OF ECON COUNSELOR AND HERNANDEZ. HE MET US WITH ROBERTO
DAVILA, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR TRADE POLICY, AND ALFREDO
GUTIERREZ, TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AT MEXICAN EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON. GARRIDO ARRIVED LATE FOR MEETING.

3. HERNANDEZ WAS MIFFED THAT MARIO RODRIGUEZ HAD TO
RESIGN FROM GARRIDO'S STAFF AND REFUSED TO LET HIM LEAVE

COMMERCE. INSTEAD, HE SET UP A SPECIAL STUDIES GROUP ON TRADE POLICIES AND NEGOTIATIONS HEADED BY FERNANDO DE MATEO, WHO IS WORKING ON A PH. D. AT JOHNS HOPKINS, AND ASSIGNED RODRIGUEZ TO IT.

4. JORGE DE LA VEGA DOMINGUEZ, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, RECENTLY APPOINTED ALFREDO GUTIERREZ TO HIS POSITION IN WASHINGTON WHERE HE IS SUPPOSED TO COORDINATE ALL MEXICAN TRADE ACTIVITIES FROM GATHERING INFORMATION TO MAKING REPRESENTATIONS. GUTIERREZ IS ASSEMBLING A STAFF AND WE GAVE HIM A LIST OF CONTACTS IN WASHINGTON. GUTIERREZ IS A CLOSE RELATIVE OF DE LA VEGA AND HAS DIRECT ACCESS TO HIM AND HERNANDEZ. HERNANDEZ'S ROLE IN THIS APPOINTMENT IS NOT YET CLEAR BUT GARRIDO WAS GREATLY DISPLEASED BY IT.

5. IN RECENT BILATERAL TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS, IT BECAME OBVIOUS THAT GARRIDO WAS NOT PREPARED TO CONDUCT SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS ON TEXTILES AND WAS STALLING FOR TIME. GARRIDO RETURNED TO MEXICO FROM GENEVA VIA WASHINGTON ON EVENING OF DAY PRECEDING NEGOTIATIONS. IN WASHINGTON HE SPENT SEVERAL DAYS WITH A "CLOSE AND GOOD FRIEND" INSTEAD OF RETURNING DIRECTLY TO PREPARE FOR THE TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. WE ARE REPORTING THIS INFORMATION IN ORDER THAT TRADE
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SUBGROUP BE AWARE THAT, DESPITE GARRIDO'S PERFECT COMMAND OF ENGLISH AND U.S. CUSTOMS, HE IS VERY MUCH A MEXICAN, AND FURTHERMORE REALIZE THAT GARRIDO MAY NOT HAVE AS MUCH AUTHORITY AS HE ONCE HAD OR PRETENDS TO HAVE. IN JUSTICE TO GARRIDO HE HAS, WE BELIEVE, AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE JOB MADE MORE DIFFICULT BY EXTRANEIOUS DIVERSIONS. AS DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS HE HAS TO BECOME AN EXPERT IN DEPTH FOR EVERY SUBJECT. HE COULD OVERCOME THIS HANDICAP TO SOME EXTENT WITH GOOD STAFF WORK IN MEXICO FROM TWO CAPABLE DEPUTIES, JOSE TELLO AND MARIO RODRIGUEZ, WERE HE CAPABLE OF DELEGATING RESPONSIBILITY. HOWEVER WITH THE LOSS OF RODRIGUEZ, WHO JUST COULDN'T STAND WORKING FOR HIM ANY LONGER, HIS STAFF CANNOT PULL TOGETHER A GOM POSITION ON ISSUES.

7. OBVIOUSLY, ABOVE COMMENTS SHOULD BE HELD CLOSELY. GARRIDO MAY BE AROUND A LONG TIME AND WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SOUR OUR RELATIONS WITH HIM. LUCEY

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